

Discussion from 2/27/03 Strategic Policy Check for Waste Program

General discussion

- If the Program is trying to shift or move toward zero waste, why are you using "waste" instead of "material?"
 - Presentation and choice of words used is important in helping create that mindset.
 - Consider changing the name of the Bureau to something like Resource Management.
- Capturing all of the methane from landfills should be considered as a potential goal.
- Fact sheets on the problems associated with open burning have already been developed. Why can't enforcement as a strategy for burning be projected earlier than 2008?
 - There is a stepped enforcement process in place now, but it is cumbersome.
 - Citation authority might be a potential revenue source that could be then applied to rural ag clean-up issues.
 - Open burning enforcement cases are still being referred to DOJ.
- What is the interplay of the EMS effort with the DNR Innovations Group? How much communication is happening between them?
 - Innovations Group has blossomed in recent months—is now far more than EMS pilots. The Group has received updates on the EMS efforts.
- What is meant as "pilots?"
 - Pilots are a strategy to support (versus perform) small scale tests prior to large scale deployment. One example is what is being tests relative to handling of CRTs.
 - Pilots are good, but it would be helpful to have DNR help develop markets for using diverted materials.
 - Be careful not to have DNR create regulatory barriers to potential markets.
 - It's not just about creating barriers—there are regs on the books already that are barriers (i.e., with regard to C&D waste). Can we look at data from other places to review the thinking of these regulations? Do we need to go to the time and expense of recreating the tests in Wisconsin?
 - Pilots will likely build on previous work and successes.
- Beg and steal ideas from elsewhere to accelerate progress!

- Keep concerns/ideas that didn't make the top 3 goals on the Waste Program radar screen. (keep a top 10 list at least)
 - Can they be woven in somewhere?
 - It was noted that several have already been integrated into the action plans for the 3 goals.
- The Program should look at creative ways to decrease expenses, and increase revenues.
- Think outside the Waste Management mindset, and look to other aspects, such as the health costs of open burning, for example.
- Re-define "waste"—the current definition of solid waste is very restrictive in terms of reuse possibilities.
- Re-think the notion of Zero Waste—re-look at the waste hierarchy.
- Instead of a vision of zero waste, do we want a vision of 100% use of material resources?
- Wastecap's vision: "to transform waste into resources"
 - One cautioned that this vision needs to be careful about embracing some recovery mechanisms that may not be desirable, such as incineration or use of bioreactors.

Discussion about measurements for the goals

Attendees were invited to discuss what might be ways to think about measure success for each of the three goals. Outcome measures, reflecting changes in the environment, are ideally desired.

Landfill goal—measures/considerations:

- Decrease in the amount of material going into landfills with appropriate diversion
- Either decreasing the production of landfill gas, or capturing an increased portion of the gas that is produced
- Decreasing the impact of leachates
- Impact on land use (impacted, in part, with out-of-state materials that are landfilled in Wisconsin)
- Check other studies to see what measures they use (John Reindl or Peter Anderson may be good sources)
- Percentage of landfills in compliance
- Decreasing toxics going into landfills
- Note: data for benchmarking some non-toxic material going into landfills is not available

- CCA treated wood regulations for landfills are being worked on right now.

Waste Minimization—measures/considerations:

- Percentage decrease in targeted materials from baseline
- Amount of waste generated per person (if successful with prevention efforts)
 - I.e., household waste is uneven with availability of programs across the state. There may need to be 2 tiers: cleaning up, then educating to prevent, which will eventually tie to reduction
 - Electronics: trying to survey statewide
- Increase in rate of recycling
- Look at some front end data collection/measures: what's going into market (sales, market share) so can proportion equitably for producer responsibility
- Grass clippings, backyard composting
- Establishing a reward/recognition system for exceptional designs that encourage/increase recyclability of materials
- Move to measure total generation of waste: reverse upward trend of waste disposal differential over recycling
 - Note: WI has ability to track and exclude out-of-state material in these calculations
- Whatever metrics are used, accounting for and factoring in volume as well as toxicity will be important. Some substances (mercury) are low volume, but highly toxic. Volume is not a sufficient measure.

Open burning/backyard dumping - measures/considerations:

- The Program does not have accurate numbers for burn barrels
- Decrease in number of complaints could be a measure
- Decrease in numbers of burn barrels discovered at small businesses during inspections could be another measure
- Communities are looking to DNR for help in changing some local practices (i.e., leaf burning)—it would be helpful to know how many communities allow burning currently.
- Use satellite technology for leaf burning incidences?
- Tap into health data, especially in regard to dioxins
- Burn barrels:
 - #1 source of wildfires—track # of wildfires, # of acres burned
 - #1 source of citizen complaints on air pollution—track # of complaints
 - #1 source of dioxin emissions--- hard to measure or quantify

- Important to try to parse out portion of health effects from open burning.
 - UW has several studies underway re: effects of toxics on humans.
Impact of dioxins on human tissue may be available.
- Measure of public opinion on acceptability of burn barrels as a measure of disposal—this is done as a part of a larger survey done every couple of years.
- Number of people involved in effective waste management program
- Compare amount of burning done in townships that have drop-off programs versus curbside pick-ups
- How will prescribed burns (prairies, other) be factored into this effort?
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